THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) According to the inforamation furnished by the Indian Council of Historical Research, the essential qualifications prescribed for the post of the Director, ICHR, *inter alia*, include "at least 10 years experience in teaching or guiding research". The present incumbent of the post of the Director possesses experience of more than 25 years in conducting/guiding research scholars in the National Archieves of India and has a number of books and published articles to his credit. In a counter affidavit filed in the High Court by the Secretary (Administration) of the ICHR, it was *inter alia*, stated that the present Director satisfied the qualifications as per recruitment rules.

Brahmaputra River as National Waterway

1862. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to declare the Brahmaputra river as a National Waterway; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Concurrence of State Government of Assam is awaited for the purpose of finalization of the proposal for declaration of Brahmaputra as a National Waterway.

Recognition to the Diplomas conferred by the Indian Institute of Planning and Management

1863. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Institute of Planning and Management is registered under the Registration of Societies Act at New Delhi;

(b) whether the Institute is running a campus at Gurgaon for teaching Management Studies and conferring diplomas on the course participants;

(c) whether the scheme of course content and the scheme of conferring diplomas are recognised and approved by the Government; and

(d) if not, whether it is a fact that a number of public sector undertakings of the Central Government recognize these diplomas for the post of appointment as claimed in the brochure and the admission form issued by the Institute while inviting applications during the current year; i.e. 1987 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) The Indian Institute of Planning and Management, New Delhi, which is registered under the Registration of Societies Act, has not approached the Department of Education for recognition of the programmes in Management bein conducted by them. No recognition has been given to these programmes by the Government of India. Being an Institution, whose programmes are not evaluated or recognised, this department has no information about this Institute's conferring diploma to students. As the diploma is not one of the recognised qualifications, the question of employment in Central Government by virtue of the diploma does not arise.

Agitation by railway commuters for change in timings of Bombay-Gandhidham Express

1864. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item 'Agitating Railway Commuters Canned' which appeared in the Indian Post, Bombay of 2nd October, 1987;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Kutch Yuvak Sangh is constantly demanding

change in timings of Bombay-Gandhidham Express;

(c) if so, what is the change asked for and the action taken by Government thereon;

(d) what is the average number of passengers in this train going from (i) Bombay to Gandhidham, (ii) Bombay-Ahmedabad and (iii) Ahmedabad to Gandhidham in the last six months; and

(e) whether the number of passengers going from Bombay to Gandhidham is more, if so, what are the reasons for not accepting the demands of passengers of Bombay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Sangh desire a later start of the train at about 6 p.m.

(d) and (e) The average dail number of point to point passengers (not including passengers from stations enroute) was as under:—

Bombay-Gandhidham	396
Bombay-Ahmedabad	62
Ahmedabad-Gandhidham	167

Due to requirements of different segments of traffic, departure as suggested is not considered feasible. This will also affect the present connection for Bhuj bound passengers at Gandhidham.

Theft of Railway Property

1865. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of thefts reported in the Railways during the year 1986-87 and the current financial year so far;

(b) what were the corresponding figures during the years 1985-86 and 1984-85, zone-wise;

(c) whether there has been an increase or decrease in the number of thefts as compared to years 1984-86;

(d) what is the number of persons arrested and convicted on this account, zone-wise;

(e) what is the value of articles stolen; and

(f) what is the total value of articles recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Number of cases reported during 1986-87 and between April, 1987 to September, 1987 are as under:

Year	No. of cases Reported
1986-87	1,00,211
April '87 to Sept. '87	42,578

(b) Number of cases of thefts reported during 1984-85 and 1985-86 (zone-wise) are as under:—

Railways	1984-85	1985-86
CR.	7,060	9,251
ER.	25,991	22,610
NR.	48,007	48,144
NER	6,449	4,537
NFR	4,782	5,613
SR	2,011	2,232
SCR	3,992	3,793
SER	13,720	11,248
WR	8,009	6,697
TOTAL	1,20,021	1,14,125

(c) There has been decrease in the number of cases of thefts of Railway Property as compared to the years 1984-86.

(d) Number of persons arrested and convicted (zone-wise) during the year 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87 and April,